Chemical Industrial Estates

1088. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates across the country;

(b) if so, what would be the total cost of setting up these mega projects;

(c) how many slates have shown interest in these projects; and

(d) the criteria for funding these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Tlie need for selling up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates (MCIE) having comprehensive infrasiruclure facilities for the chemical industry has been felt. The cost of such an estate would depend on a number of factors including the size of the estate and the facFlities proposed to be provided. So far seven slates have shown interest in such a project. After considering all aspects of the issue and the advise of the Planning Commission, it has been decided that the proposal should be commended to private promoters and State Governmcnis.

Penalising impact of subsidy cut on private fertilizer pliints

1089. SHRI PRAFUL PA TEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses are being sustained by most of the public sector fertilizer plants year after year which were as high as Rs. 2,466 crore in the year 2001-02, as per the report of the Ministry; and

(b) whether Government are subsidizing such losses, at the same time trying to save much smaller amounts on subsidy, by penalizing the efficiency of private and cooperative sector fertilizer plants, under the garb of reducing subsidy, if so, how government expect to ensure continued health and viability of efficiently run fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): fa) There are 8 Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers.